LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, September 9, 1991 / Bhadra 18, 1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Sale of NCERT Books Published in Hindi

*732. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether supplementary books published in Hindi by NCERT are generally not available in the market despite the fact that these books are available in their stock; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve their availability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir. According to the information furnished by the NCERT, the supplementary books published in Hindi by the NCERT are distributed along with other publications through 35 Wholesale Agents located all over the country. These agents lift the books for sale as per their requirements. The Supplementary Books are also stocked by the Sales Emporia of Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. NCERT also entertains direct orders from institutions and individuals.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: I have personal knowledge that thousands of books are lying in godowns and during the last three years only 41 per cent of the books published by NCERT were circulated and only 17 per cent were sold. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what is the reason for the same?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: With regard to the Hon. Member's observation of personal knowledge, I have tremendous respect for him. But I would like to correct that his figure of 17 per cent flows out of the earlier question he had asked. It is a reference figure I presume where earlier a question was addressed when actually over 8000 copies were sold. What was the percentage of books when he addressed the question earlier when over 8000 copies were sold during the first three years? If you calculate that, then percentage of 17 will work out. Otherwise, NCERT actually prints 25 million copies for publication every year and about 18-20 million copies get sold during the year. That is the position as it stands today.

With regard to supplementary books published in Hindi, we have nine titles; we have to actually do reprinting and 3.31 lakh copies have been distributed in the case of Hindi supplementaries.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Sir, still the fact remains that many of the books published are lying in NCERT godowns and they are not circulated in time. And, therefore, the

students do not get the books at cheap rate at the proper time. Will the Minister have a probe as to whether there exists a racket for the benefit of private booksellers publishing books on the same subjects. Also will the Minister see that the students get the books published by NCERT in time as they are cheap and better?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would beg to disagree with the hon. Member that there are lot of books held up in the godowns. On the contrary, wherever demands are made, either by the wholesalers or by the institutions or even directly by the individuals the books are made available ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KAPSE: The students cannot ask directly. So, they are to be circulated in time. Please have a probe. That is my request.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Let me clarify that there is a slight difference between textbooks and supplementary readers. The question is addressed really for supplementary readers. But, even if one comes to the question of textbooks, I would definitely, since the hon. Member is insisting, have a look at it. But the point that is relevant is this. We have as well taken a decision, in addition to the wholesalers, to open up three regional centers at Calcutta, Ahmedabad and Madras also to cater specially to the eastern, western and southern zones respectively, to ensure that direct supply of the books is made available to the students.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, the NCERT books are required for different schools all over the country, in different States. So, considering the vastness of our country, is the number, that is, 35 NCERT sales centers, considered adequate? I would like to know as to whether there is a demand for enhancing the number of NCERT sales centers in different States. And if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

Sir, the fact remains that all the books prescribed are not made available in all centers. So, there is a pressure on even MPs from the students and their guardians to supply books to them, to get them from Delhi centers and to carry them home and to distribute them. I want to know whether the Minister is aware of this. Will the Minister look into this and also see that all the books are made available in all centers?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, in addition to the question of having regional centres, there are wholesale agents throughout the country. Even in the eastern region, in Bhubaneshwar, there is a wholesale agent. The hon. Member comes from the State of Orissa. If the Member wants to know, I can even supply the name of the wholesale agent Messrs. Gyan Bharati, Plot 18, Station Square, Unit-3, Bhubaneshwar. He can definitely get them and the supplies are still there.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I would like to know as to what is the total number of books and the value of the books which are lying in the main central godown. Also I would like to know whether the Government will circulate a list of pending books which are there in the godown to the Members so that when he students and professors come to us, we can have a check as to whether they are keeping them. From that point of view, I would like to know whether the Government will circulate us a list of books and the number of copies which are there as on a particular day.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is literally asking me a question, which is the tip of the iceberg and then asking the whole size of the iceberg. It is a little unfair. It started with supplementary readers and then goes to the whole thing ... (*Interruptions*) I do not have the material with me at present. But I shall definitely supply this information.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Government conduct raid on the stocks of wholesale agents to bring to light the fact

that books are piled up in the stocks whereas it is not available to the readers.

[*English*]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: We do not think, there is any problem of anything being kept in stock with the wholesalers but it is with us, the NCERT that the stock is kept. Therefore, the question of conducting any raid does not arise.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question about non-availability of NCERT books to students had been raised earlier also. Whereas the Private Companies are printing N.C.E.R.T. books on the same subjects. I would like to know whether hon. Minister is aware of such cases. Besides, I would like to ask whether efforts would be made to ensure availability of NCERT books in Hilly and backward areas where people have to tread miles to get those books?

[*English*]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: With regard to the question of private publishers re-printing the books, it cannot be done legally. It must probably be done illegally. Since it has been brought to my notice, I shall definitely have the matter looked into to find out if really such a situation does exist. With regard to hill areas and North-eastern States, let me inform the hon. Member that we have wholesale agents available, who actually have the authority to place orders on demand or even otherwise in anticipation they can assess the requirement and then place orders.

Emigration Clearance

*733 SHRI E. AHMED: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of people who have obtained valid employment visas are denied emigration clearance and are thereby stranded at International airports of Bombay, Delhi and Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to relax the rules of emigration to enable any person who has obtained a valid employment visa to get emigration clearance without much difficulty?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There are reports that many persons with valid employment visas have not been able to obtain emigration clearance since they do not possess the documents prescribed under the Emigration Act 1983 and the Rules framed thereunder for the purpose.

(c) This is under consideration.

SHRI E. AHAMED: "Getting documents" that the Minister has referred to in the answer, is a complicated matter. There are even now more then 10,000 people at the Sahar Airport in spite of the fact that they have obtained valid employment visas from Gulf countries. That is also the case in Delhi and Trivandrum. When the Government is very much considerate to several other categories and giving them exemption from these emigration rules, why have these manual labourers, who are unskilled and obtained valid employment visas, not been exempted from the purview of this Act? Again, there are certain agencies which are taking advantage of it. The stand taken by the Government of India has been made use of by other countries like Phillipines and Bangladesh and they have taken advantage of it. Why does the Government not give sympathetic consideration to these manual employees when the country is facing unemployment on the one hand and also the crunch of foreign exchange?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: The Government is also seized of the problem of emigration labour. In order to simplify the